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TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, ECLA, PFOR, DR SUBJECT: CEGAN MEETING MARCH 9-15

REF: STATE 50855

- 1. THE THIRD MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT EXPERTS TO APPRAISE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDGAN) OPENED IN SANTO DOMINGO ON SCHEDULE MARCH 9 UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF ECLA WITH THE ATTENDANCE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM 18 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING CUBA. DOMINICAN VICE PRESIDENT GOICO MORALES AND DOMINICAN FOREIGN MINISTER EMILIO JIMENEZ WERE PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES.
- 2. MAY DELEGATIONS, SUCH AS THOSE OF ARGENTINA AND CHILE, WERE HEADED BY LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, BUT INCLUDED DEVELOPMENTAL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATIONAL PLANNING, OR UN EXPERTS. DELEGATIONS OF BRAZIL, MEXICO, AND VENEZUELA WERE HEADED BY SPECIALISTS.

3. THE AGENDA AND THE RHETORIC APPEAR TO RUN MUCH OF THE GAMUT OF THE GROUP OF 77 ASPIRATIONS. ITEMS DISCUSSED INCLUDE THE US TRADE ACT OF 1974, A NEW INTER-

NATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, LDC TRADE DEFICITS AND BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS PROBLEMS, DEBTS, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE SAME, LENDING POLICIES OF THE IFI'S, AND INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICES. DOMINICAN UNDER SECRETARY LICELOTTE MARTE DE BARRIOS, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, MADE A SPEECH PROTESTING THE TRIPLING OF US TARIFFS ON SUGAR IMPORTS (SUBJECT OF SEPTEL).

- 4. ACCORDING TO LOCAL NEWS ACCOUNTS ECLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IGLESIAS ASKED THETORICALLY IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IF THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION COULD ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF LARGE FOREIGN AID SCHEME FOR LATIN AMERICA. IGLESIAS IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE US, BECAUSE OF ITS ENORMOUS WEIGHT IN THE WORLD AND IN LATIN AMERICA, COULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE. HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON HAS MADE DECLARATIONS WHICH HAVE RAISED GREAT EXPECTATIONS. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO BE HOPED FOR IS AN EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION FROM THE US FOR POLITICALLY ADVANCING THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM IN THIS REGARD.
- 5. THE MEETING REPORTEDLY IS CONSIDERING A PRESENTATION AT THE ECLA MEETING IN GUATEMALA APRIL 21 OF REQUEST FOR MODIFICATIONS IN THE US TRADE ACT. MENTIONED IN THIS REGARD WERE THE COMPETITIVE NEED FORMULA, RESTRICTIONS ON RULES OF ORIGIN, SAFEGUARD CLAUSES, NON-TARIFF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BARRIERS, AND THE EXCLUSION OF THE OPEC COUNTRIES.

6. A WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE MEETING IS ENTITLED
"ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN LATIN AMERICAN
FOREIGN RELATIONS." THE DOCUMENT TREATS THE EVALUATION
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PRCESS WHICH HAS BEEN EVOLVING
IN LATIN AMERICA IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD, A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF THE PREVAILING SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, ECONOMIC AND SECTORAL EVOLUTION
DURING THE PERIOD 1970-1976, PROBLEMS OF BALANCE-OFPAYMENTS AND INDEBTEDNESS, NEW ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN LATIN
AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT AND THEIR INSERTION (INSERCION) IN
THE WORLD ECONOMY, THE NATURE OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION,
COMMERCIAL FINANCING AND INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY WHICH
LATIN AMERICA NEEDS, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL RELATIONS
WITH THE US AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND LATIN
AMERICAN REGIONAL INTEGRATION.

7. OTHER ITEMS REPORTEDLY BEING BROUGHT UP IN THE MEET-

ING INCLUDES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDUSTRIAL CONTROL INSTITUTE AND AN INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR FOLLOWING EUROPEAN MARKET AND STIMULATING EXPORTS TO EUROPE. ANOTHER IS THE OBTAINING FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF TREATMENT FOR LATIN AMERICAN IMPORTS EQUAL TO THAT GIVEN TO SIGNATORIES OF THE LOME CONVENTION.

8. ON IFI FINANCING A WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE MEETING REPORTEDLY COMPLAINS ABOUT FINANCING BEING DIRECTED SO MUCH TOWARD THE POOREST COUNTRIES AND THOSE MOST SERIOUS-LY AFFECTED BY PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASES. THE DOCUMENT APPEARS TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST CONCESSIONAL LENDING BEING CUT OFF AT THE LEVEL OF \$300 PER CAPITA GNP, AND SUGGESTS A CHANGE IN THE CRITERIA FOR CLASSIFYING COUNTRIES AS POOR WITH A CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO OTHER CHARACTERISTICS AS WELL AS PER CAPITA GNP. HURWITCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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